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UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-first year

Letter dated 13 September 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 13 September 1996 addressed to you by Mr. Tariq Aziz, Deputy Prime Minister and Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning the continuing violation of Iraq's sovereignty and of Iraqi airspace by United States forces.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under items 11 and 147 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/51/150.

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ANNEX

Letter dated 13 September 1996 from the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General

Further to my letter of 11 September 1996 addressed to you (A/51/349-S/1996/742, annex), I should like to inform you that the United States is continuing its policy of aggression against Iraq. The United States forces of aggression and those who support them have continued to violate our airspace. In the violations committed on 11 September 1996, 15 sorties were flown by hostile aircraft over northern Iraq and 57 over southern Iraq; and in the violations committed on 12 September 1996, 15 sorties were flown by hostile aircraft over northern Iraq and 47 over southern Iraq. The sorties flown over northern Iraq were supported by an early-warning AWACS aircraft based in Turkey, and those flown over southern Iraq were supported by an AWACS aircraft based in Saudi Arabia.

Such military action constitutes overt aggression against the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of Iraq in violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law.

I should also like to take this opportunity to direct your attention to the matter of the two "no-fly zones" imposed on Iraq by the United States and the United Kingdom. The Government of Iraq has stated on many occasions in the past that the maintenance of these "no-fly zones" is a unilateral action taken in the context of the ongoing series of acts of armed aggression against the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of Iraq in violation of the Charter of the United Nations and international law. The Government of the Republic of Iraq will require the States that have taken this action to bear international liability for the consequent damage sustained by Iraq.

The Government of the Republic of Iraq urges the United Nations to meet its responsibilities under the Charter and to take the necessary action to halt this aggression.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under items 11 and 147 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Tariq AZIZ
Deputy Prime Minister
Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq